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Stansfield Turner

Turner balks at own safeguards

Reporter Tom Diaz checks out a former CIA chief: A CIA spokesman said yesterday that former CIA director Stansfield Turner's complaints about the agency's review of his book "have no validity." Retired Adm. Turner complains in the introduction to a new book about the agency that the CIA took too long to review the manuscript and ordered too many deletions before it would permit its publication.

But, says a spokesman, "He has chosen to be critical of a mechanism that he himself established." The spokesman said review of the book "proved to be more lengthy and arduous than in almost all other cases in recent years," but said that Adm. Turner submitted his manuscript "chapter by chapter" and "continually revised portions that had already been approved."

The same standards were applied to Adm. Turner's book as are applied to manuscripts submitted by other former CIA employees, said the spokesman, "The agency's experience with pre-publication review shows that the mechanism is only effective when the same review process and classification standards are applied equally to all."

In 1978 Adm. Turner pressed the Justice Department to prosecute Frank Snepp, an ex-CIA employee; for writing a book about the CIA without clearance. The government confiscated about \$60,000 of profits from Mr. Snepp's book.